

**§ 292.204 Criteria for qualifying small power production facilities.**

(a) *Size of the facility*—(1) *Maximum size.* There is no size limitation for an eligible solar, wind, waste or facility, as defined by section 3(17)(E) of the Federal Power Act. For a non-eligible facility, the power production capacity for which qualification is sought, together with the power production capacity of any other non-eligible small power production facilities that use the same energy resource, are owned by the same person(s) or its affiliates, and are located at the same site, may not exceed 80 megawatts.

(2) *Method of calculation.* (i) For purposes of this paragraph, facilities are considered to be located at the same site as the facility for which qualification is sought if they are located within one mile of the facility for which qualification is sought and, for hydroelectric facilities, if they use water from the same impoundment for power generation.

(ii) For purposes of making the determination in clause (i), the distance between facilities shall be measured from the electrical generating equipment of a facility.

(3) *Waiver.* The Commission may modify the application of paragraph (a)(2) of this section, for good cause.

(b) *Fuel use.* (1)(i) The primary energy source of the facility must be biomass, waste, renewable resources, geothermal resources, or any combination thereof, and 75 percent or more of the total energy input must be from these sources.

(ii) Any primary energy source which, on the basis of its energy content, is 50 percent or more biomass shall be considered biomass.

(2) Use of oil, natural gas and coal by a facility, under section 3(17)(B) of the Federal Power Act, is limited to the minimum amounts of fuel required for ignition, startup, testing, flame stabilization, and control uses, and the minimum amounts of fuel required to alleviate or prevent unanticipated equipment outages, and emergencies, directly affecting the public health, safety, or welfare, which would result from electric power outages. Such fuel use may not, in the aggregate, exceed 25 percent of the total energy input of the facility during the 12-month period

beginning with the date the facility first produces electric energy and any calendar year subsequent to the year in which the facility first produces electric energy.

(Energy Security Act, Pub. L. 96-294, 94 Stat. 611 (1980) Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. 2601, *et seq.*, Energy Supply and Environmental Coordination Act, 15, U.S.C. 791, *et seq.*, Federal Power Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 792 *et seq.*, Department of Energy Organization Act, 42 U.S.C. 7101, *et seq.*; E.O. 12009, 42 FR 46267)

[45 FR 17972, Mar. 20, 1980, as amended by Order 135, 46 FR 19231, Mar. 30, 1981; Order 575, 60 FR 4857, Jan. 25, 1995]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 75 FR 15966, Mar. 30, 2010, § 292.204 was amended by revising paragraph (a)(1) and adding paragraph (a)(4), effective June 1, 2010. For the convenience of the user, the added and revised text is set forth as follows:

**§ 292.204 Criteria for qualifying small power production facilities.**

(a) *Size of the facility*—(1) *Maximum size.* Except as provided in paragraph (a)(4) of this section, the power production capacity of a facility for which qualification is sought, together with the power production capacity of any other small power production facilities that use the same energy resource, are owned by the same person(s) or its affiliates, and are located at the same site, may not exceed 80 megawatts.

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(4) *Exception.* Facilities meeting the criteria in section 3(17)(E) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796(17)(E)) have no maximum size, and the power production capacity of such facilities shall be excluded from consideration when determining the maximum size of other small power production facilities within one mile of such facilities.

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**§ 292.205 Criteria for qualifying cogeneration facilities.**

(a) *Operating and efficiency standards for topping-cycle facilities*—(1) *Operating standard.* For any topping-cycle cogeneration facility, the useful thermal energy output of the facility must be no less than 5 percent of the total energy output during the 12-month period beginning with the date the facility first produces electric energy, and any calendar year subsequent to the year in

which the facility first produces electric energy.

(2) *Efficiency standard.* (i) For any topping-cycle cogeneration facility for which any of the energy input is natural gas or oil, and the installation of which began on or after March 13, 1980, the useful power output of the facility plus one-half the useful thermal energy output, during the 12-month period beginning with the date the facility first produces electric energy, and any calendar year subsequent to the year in which the facility first produces electric energy, must:

(A) Subject to paragraph (a)(2)(i)(B) of this section be no less than 42.5 percent of the total energy input of natural gas and oil to the facility; or

(B) If the useful thermal energy output is less than 15 percent of the total energy output of the facility, be no less than 45 percent of the total energy input of natural gas and oil to the facility.

(ii) For any topping-cycle cogeneration facility not subject to paragraph (a)(2)(i) of this section there is no efficiency standard.

(b) *Efficiency standards for bottoming-cycle facilities.* (1) For any bottoming-cycle cogeneration facility for which any of the energy input as supplementary firing is natural gas or oil, and the installation of which began on or after March 13, 1980, the useful power output of the facility during the 12-month period beginning with the date the facility first produces electric energy, and any calendar year subsequent to the year in which the facility first produces electric energy must be no less than 45 percent of the energy input of natural gas and oil for supplementary firing.

(2) For any bottoming-cycle cogeneration facility not covered by paragraph (b)(1) of this section, there is no efficiency standard.

(c) *Waiver.* The Commission may waive any of the requirements of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section upon a showing that the facility will produce significant energy savings.

(d) *Criteria for new cogeneration facilities.* Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, any cogeneration facility that was either not certified as a qualifying cogeneration fa-

cility on or before August 8, 2005, or that had not filed a notice of self-certification, self-recertification or an application for Commission certification or Commission recertification as a qualifying cogeneration facility under § 292.207 of this chapter prior to February 2, 2006, and which is seeking to sell electric energy pursuant to section 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. 824a–1, must also show:

(1) The thermal energy output of the cogeneration facility is used in a productive and beneficial manner; and

(2) The electrical, thermal, chemical and mechanical output of the cogeneration facility is used fundamentally for industrial, commercial, residential or institutional purposes and is not intended fundamentally for sale to an electric utility, taking into account technological, efficiency, economic, and variable thermal energy requirements, as well as state laws applicable to sales of electric energy from a qualifying facility to its host facility.

(3) *Fundamental use test.* For the purposes of satisfying paragraph (d)(2) of this section, the electrical, thermal, chemical and mechanical output of the cogeneration facility will be considered used fundamentally for industrial, commercial, or institutional purposes and not intended fundamentally for sale to an electric utility if at least 50 percent of the aggregate of such output, on an annual basis, is used for industrial, commercial, residential or institutional purposes. In addition, applicants for facilities that do not meet this safe harbor standard may present evidence to the Commission that the facilities should nevertheless be certified given state laws applicable to sales of electric energy or unique technological, efficiency, economic, and variable thermal energy requirements.

(4) For purposes of paragraphs (d)(1) and (d)(2) of this section, a new cogeneration facility of 5 MW or smaller will be presumed to satisfy the requirements of those paragraphs.

(5) For purposes of paragraph (d)(1) of this section, where a thermal host existed prior to the development of a new cogeneration facility whose thermal output will supplant the thermal source previously in use by the thermal

host, the thermal output of such new cogeneration facility will be presumed to satisfy the requirements of paragraph (d)(1).

[45 FR 17972, Mar. 20, 1980, as amended by Order 478, 52 FR 28467, July 30, 1987; Order 575, 60 FR 4857, Jan. 25, 1995; Order 671, 71 FR 7868, Feb. 15, 2006]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 75 FR 15966, Mar. 30, 2010, § 292.205 was amended by revising paragraph (d), effective June 1, 2010. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

**§ 292.205 Criteria for qualifying cogeneration facilities.**

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(d) *Criteria for new cogeneration facilities.* Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, any cogeneration facility that was either not a qualifying cogeneration facility on or before August 8, 2005, or that had not filed a notice of self-certification or an application for Commission certification as a qualifying cogeneration facility under § 292.207 of this chapter prior to February 2, 2006, and which is seeking to sell electric energy pursuant to section 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. 824a-1, must also show:

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**§ 292.207 Procedures for obtaining qualifying status.**

(a) *Self-certification and pre-authorized Commission recertification—1) Self-certification.* (i) A small power production facility or cogeneration facility that meets the applicable criteria established in § 292.203 is a qualifying facility.

(ii) The owner or operator of a facility or its representative self-certifying under this section must file with the Commission, and concurrently serve on each electric utility with which it expects to interconnect, transmit or sell electric energy to or purchase supplementary, standby, back-up and maintenance power, and the State regulatory authority of each state where the facility and each affected utility is located, a notice of self-certification which contains a completed Form 556.

(iii) Subsequent notices of self-recertification for the same facility may reference prior notices or prior Commission certifications, and need only

refer to changes which have occurred with respect to the facility since the prior notice or the prior Commission certification.

(iv) Notices of self-certification or self-recertification, other than for new cogeneration facilities, will not be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Notices of self-certification or self-recertification of new cogeneration facilities will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER; such self-certifications and self-recertifications should include a form of notice suitable for publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(2) *Pre-authorized Commission recertification.* (i) For purposes of paragraph (b) of this section, the following alterations or modifications are not considered substantial alterations or modifications and will not result in revocation of qualifying status previously granted by the Commission pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section:

(A) A change which does not affect the upstream ownership of the facility;

(B) A change in the installation or operation date;

(C) A change in the manufacturer of the power generation equipment selected for the facility's installation when there is no change in capacity or operating characteristics;

(D) A change in the location of a cogeneration facility, or a small power production facility, if the new location would not cause the facility to violate the 80 MW limitation of § 292.204(a)(1);

(E) A decrease in the amount of natural gas or oil or any change in the amount of other fuel used by a cogeneration facility, provided that the efficiency value and the operating value calculation for the facility remain at or above the values stated when the certification or recertification order was issued;

(F) A decrease in the amount of fossil fuel used by a small power production facility;

(G) A change in the primary energy source of a small power production facility, provided that the facility continues to comply with the requirements of § 292.204;

(H) An additional use of a cogeneration facility's thermal output, if the original uses are as stated when the certification order was issued;